

WEST LAFAYETTE CITY NEWS

HOME OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY

New, Feature-packed Website Coming Soon

Same Address: www.westlafayette.in.gov

Once simply an information resource, the City of West Lafayette's all-new website—debuting soon—will bring residents and visitors a feature-rich, interactive communications tool loaded with benefits.

"This new website will bring unparalleled opportunities and access to city government," says Mayor John Dennis. "We are surpassing the information age and entering an age of expanded service and convenience."

Online Payments, Requests, Services

Residents will be able to pay wastewater utility bills online; pay or appeal traffic tickets; request public records; report street sign, sidewalk, tree and other concerns; and access countless more services not previously available online.

Designed for easy reading and navigating, the website will include information on city departments, officials, commissions, council, codes and ordinances. Regular postings will include meeting agendas and minutes, an

events calendar and the annual budget. An especially convenient feature will be the A-to-Z services directory for quick reference by topic.

Vital, 24/7 Communications Tool

"We are moving way beyond one-way communication, with the city using the website to post information," Dennis says. "We will soon have a vital, virtual, two-way communications tool so residents can communicate with us 24/7. We are definitely moving to the next level."

Other features will include a drop-down hot-topic menu on the home page, visitors guide, relocation information, a section for Purdue students, and an overview of the city, its demographics and recent awards.

Head to www.westlafayette.in.gov

"Once the site is up, the best way to see what is available and how it benefits you will be to go online and click around," Dennis says.

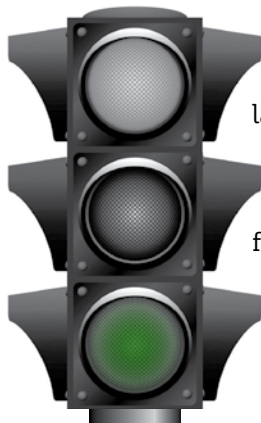
The website is being developed with extensive city assistance by eGov Strategies LLC of Indianapolis.

West Lafayette Says: Go Green and Red

Go Green. With this issue, our newsletter is now being printed on recycled paper and accented in green to reflect the city's increasing commitment to adopting green practices. The city's Go Greener Commission is at work in several areas. An article (inside) gives tips on proper composting. Over the summer, the commission will work with local festivals to implement green policies. Our engineers, too, are implementing green initiatives (see the article

inside on Cumberland street work). Learn more at www.westlafayette.in.gov.

Go Red. West Lafayette's success in winning the highest award possible in the 2008 America in Bloom contest is fueling interest in a repeat show of standout landscapes and good stewardship. Dubbed West Lafayette in Bloom, this year's program is all local, inviting residents to fill the city with red flowering annuals. This year, every one of us will be judges of our success.



West Lafayette parks and the municipal pool welcome residents and visitors this summer.



Photo by Bob Bauman

The Celery Bog Nature Area offers up-close looks at flora and fauna.



Orange Barrels Signal Summer Improvements

by Mayor John Dennis

Wonderful improvements are coming to city streets this summer, thanks to the work of David Buck and his engineering department crew. Please drive carefully, watch for workers and be patient. Inconveniences will be temporary; improvements, long-lasting.

Safe Routes to School. We are installing new solar-powered school zone beacons, coordinated by web-based software; pedestrian crossings; ADA ramps; and pavement markings at Cumberland and Happy Hollow elementaries as part of a \$250,000 Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) grant. Work will run from June to school's start in August. The city and West Lafayette Community School Corp. are also forming a committee to improve student safety and health. Funded by a \$71,500 INDOT grant, a master plan will identify best walking routes, prioritize capital improvements, develop activities for children to learn about walking to school safely, and increase school zone enforcement.

Salisbury Street, Riley to Rainbow. \$1.05 million in new sidewalks, ADA ramps, curbs, storm sewers and pavement restoration will be ongoing until late this year. The contractor will operate from the former Burtsfield site, then re-grade and seed.

Salisbury, Robinson to Wiggins. We anticipate receiving about \$550,000 in stimulus funding for resurfacing.

Sycamore Lane, Sagamore West to Salisbury. Work on traffic calming measures, new sidewalks and bump-outs begins in June after Indiana American Water Co. installs a new water line. The city received a \$550,000 federal grant to fund 90 percent of our work, targeted to end in November.

Streets, Sidewalks, ADA Ramps. Stimulus funds through the Community Development Block Grant program will be used to install new curbs and sidewalks along Robinson Street from Salisbury to DeHart. Annual improvements throughout the city also continue, with repairs to the most-in-need spots made first. Some mid-block pedestrian crossings and other traffic and parking improvements also will occur.

Of Note

CityBus Serves Prophet's Ridge. Buses now run to and from Prophet's Ridge. Schedule at www.gocitybus.com.

Building Permits. January, \$1,698,370; February, \$1,137,645; March, \$720,271; three new homes each month.

Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog. More than 7,200 visitors from 32 states and 14 countries visited this West Lafayette treasure in 2008. Volunteers provided 98 percent of the staffing.

Riverside Skating. In its 6th season, more than 11,000 people took to the ice.

Firefighters Practice Ice Rescues

West Lafayette firefighters from all three shifts spent a cold day on the ice early this year, practicing rescue skills. They wear what's called a dry suit to keep the rescuer insulated and afloat, explains Fire Chief Phil Drew.



Photo by Bill Warner



News Bits

Downey Earns Master Road Builder Certification. Street Commissioner David Downey has earned certification as a Master Road Builder through the Indiana Local Technical Assistance Road Scholar program. He is among the first three in the state to achieve this top level. The certification methods required 600 activity and employment credits.

West Lafayette Champions Recycling. 2008 recycling totaled 2,510 tons of material—saving our city more than \$91,500 and saving landfills more than 7,500 cubic yards of space, reports Street Commissioner David Downey. "The 1,732 tons of mixed paper and newspaper recycled keeps 29,440 trees alive," he says. "And the 24 tons of aluminum cans saves the energy equivalent of more than 75,600 gallons of gasoline." Recycling brought in \$108,418 in revenues in 2008.

Cumberland Avenue Work Slated for Fall. Design work is progressing quickly for phase 1 reconstruction from Sagamore West to Yeager Road, reports City Engineer David Buck. On tap: pavement removal and reconstruction, new sidewalks and trails and a roundabout at Kent and Cumberland. The \$2.8 million project includes green elements—rain gardens, constructed wetlands, recycled concrete and asphalt, multi-modal and multi-user features for pedestrians, bikes, buses and autos, and reduced overall pavement area. Buck reports that work could start in October and run through summer 2010.



David Downey



Kesler: Volunteer Extraordinaire

Thomas Kesler, pictured, has been cleaning up West Lafayette debris and rubble since 2000, donating his time to bettering the community. He received the February 2009 Beautification Award for countless service hours.

Steins: March Beautification Winners

Whimsical accents, from a lounging couple on a bench to larger-than-life penguins, dot the hillside landscape at the Ravinia Road home of Don and Lois Stein. Evergreens, mature trees, ornamental grasses, hostas and boulders come together in the setting. The Steins received the city's March 2009 Beautification Award.



On the Beat with WLPD

Bicycle Patrols. More officers now have bicycles on the back of their patrol vehicles, Police Chief Jason Dombkowski reports. "They will ride their bikes off and on throughout their shifts, neighborhood to neighborhood." Police presence in parks and on trails also has increased.

Parking Enforcement. Parking enforcement has expanded in neighborhoods near campus and retail areas. "The goal is to gain better compliance for increased turnover of vehicles," Dombkowski says.

Scam Warning. A few scams are being attempted locally. In one, a caller claims you won the lottery; to collect, you need to send money to pay the taxes. In another, a person claiming to be from another country asks you to send a U.S. check so the caller can see how checks are done here. A third asks you to accept and repackage items for U.S. troops overseas, but that's not the address you're given. "If you are contacted or have questions about the legitimacy of a company, call the police department to see if the company is involved in fraud," says Sgt. Cindy Marion, 775-5200.

Rape Aggression Defense and radKids. The next RAD training for women is June 17 to 27. radKids—Resisting Aggression Defensively—also will be offered this summer. Contact Sgt. Cindy Marion, 775-5200.

Go Green with Careful Composting



by Rachel Witt

Secretary, Go Greener Commission

Backyard composting—aerobically decomposing organic materials—offers a simple, inexpensive way to reduce landfill trash while enhancing your garden's soil. The City of West Lafayette encourages residents to consider composting while keeping these care, health and rodent-control tips in mind.

What to compost:

Yard waste: leaves, grass, weeds

Kitchen waste: fruit and vegetable peels, tea bags, coffee grounds, egg shells and similar materials

Household waste: dryer lint, sawdust, hair, fur and similar materials

Do not compost:

Non-organic materials: plastics, glass, metal

Chemically treated wood, diseased plants, human or animal waste; they may cause contamination

Meat, bones, fatty foods; they attract animals and do not decompose well

Where to compost:

Your compost can be as simple as an open backyard pile. It needs significant sun. The city recommends containing the pile and making it more attractive and effective by building a three-sided bin out of wood or fencing; you may also purchase a composting system.

How to compost:

Designate a backyard spot; add materials as available. Use a pitchfork or shovel to turn the pile every week or two. This speeds decomposition and eliminates odors by adding oxygen and redistributing moisture. Your compost pile will be dormant in winter, but you may continue to add materials. Turn the pile soon after the spring thaw.

Learn more:

You can learn more about backyard composting at your library or online.

Not ready for composting? Another easy 'going green' step is to leave grass clippings on your lawn after mowing. They return valuable micronutrients and nitrogen to your lawn.

Vacation at Home in West Lafayette



Sagamore West Farmers Market • Wednesdays, May 6 to October 28 • 3 to 6:30 p.m. • Cumberland Park

Dog Days of Summer • Public art display • Saturdays, May to August

Tour the Town Trolley • 9:40 a.m. and 10:40 a.m. • Guided historic tour; board at 5th and Main in Lafayette; free • Saturdays, May to August

West Lafayette Municipal Pool
Open for the season • Saturday, May 23 • 1 p.m.; **Splash Bash** • Tuesday, May 26 • 1 to 4 p.m. • \$1

Back to the Future: A Mid-Century Modern Home Tour • Saturday, May 30 • 1 to 6 p.m. • \$12 advance; \$15 day of • Sponsors: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation; information from wdollase@historiclandmarks.org

Taste of Tippecanoe • Saturday, June 20 • 4 p.m. to midnight • Tapawingo Park, Pedestrian Bridge, Riehle Plaza

Art in Bloom • Saturday, June 27 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Northwestern Heights and Hills and Dales neighborhoods, gardens and art on display; info at www.westlafayette.in.gov.

Stars & Stripes Concert and Fireworks • Saturday, July 4 • Dusk • Slater Center, free

Riverfest • Saturday, July 11 • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Tapawingo Park, free • Musicians, food, team boat races

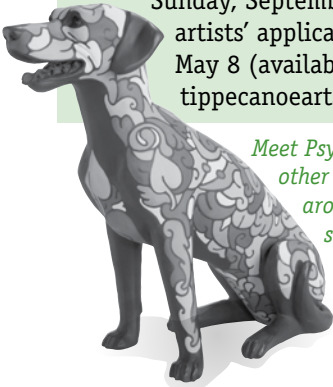
Purdue Summer Band Concert • Thursday, July 16 • 7 p.m. • Slater Center • Free; bring lawn chairs, blankets

Dancing in the Streets • Saturday, July 18 • 4 p.m. to midnight • Tapawingo Park, Pedestrian Bridge, Riehle Plaza

Coming this Fall:

Global Fest • Morton Community Center, Saturday, September 5

Art on the Wabash • Tapawingo Park, Sunday, September 20, with artists' applications due by May 8 (available at www.tippecanoearts.org)



Meet Psychedogic and 40 other decorated dogs around town this summer.

New, feature-packed website coming soon



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Judy Rhodes • Clerk-Treasurer
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